

UK Rivers Network

Weekly News Update –8/6/26

June 2026

- 5 June 2026: [Ofwat finally finds its teeth as regulator with £44.7 million fine](#): From WildFish: "For years WildFish has been saying the system isn't broken. Instead, what we need are regulators who have the mandate and backing of government to enforce under existing law. And to prove that it can be done, Ofwat has been waking lately from its slumbers with a little more vigour than before and advertising its recent successes in nailing water companies, including the recent enforcement against Dwr Cymru Welsh Water at £44.7 million".
- 5 June 2026: [River Meon chalk stream progress](#): After a long campaign by locals, and a big protest earlier this year, a traffic survey is finally beginning in Droxford, Hampshire to tackle the problem of 4x4 drivers and motorcyclists trashing a threatened chalk stream.
- 5 June 2026: [Salisbury river polluted with sewage just 13 days after being given bathing status](#): A picturesque river in Salisbury was granted official designated bathing status, only for tests to reveal it was polluted with sewage a mere 13 days later. The water at Queen Elizabeth Gardens in Salisbury, Wiltshire, was declared unsafe for swimming less than two weeks after its new designation. (Those of you with a long memory might recall it was where we held a picnic during the UK Rivers Network's inaugural conference back in 2001.)



Photo: "Queen Elizabeth Gardens, Salisbury" © Copyright [Stephen Craven](#), originally published on [Geograph](#) and licensed under a [Creative Commons \(CC BY-SA 2.0\) Licence](#).

- 3 June 2026: [The row at Hampstead Heath is about far more than a few thoughtless swimmers in a heatwave](#): Rhiannon Lucy Cosslett has a great, thoughtful article about the problems created not just by thoughtless "wild swimming", but also by unhelpful, emotive polarised debate: "On the one hand, wild swimming has become totally fetishised, tweely marketed as a middle-class lifestyle choice and a cure-all, and spots where you can swim are more and more swamped. On the other, you have 'no swimming' signs but very little clarity about why they are there... let alone a proper national conversation about what our rivers, seas, lakes and ponds are for". Well put.
- 3 June 2026: [Thames21's response to Thames Water's pollution incidents](#): Recent figures published in The Times have shown that Thames Water was responsible for almost a third of the water sector's most harmful pollution incidents in 2025. A Thames21 spokesman said: "The scale of serious pollution incidents linked to Thames Water is deeply concerning. Preventing sewage pollution at source must be a priority, and water companies need to invest far more urgently in the infrastructure required to protect river health".
- 3 June 2026: [We need to talk about SUVs](#): Climate change is the biggest future threat to rivers and SUVs are a bigger driver of that (no pun intended) than you might think. An article in The Conservation explores the scale of the problem: "SUV emissions are now so large that, if all SUVs were a country, they would be one of the world's five biggest CO2 emitters".
- 2 June 2026: [South Downs "Take the lead" campaign recommends keeping dogs out of rivers](#): The message that dogs and rivers don't mix is finally getting through. South Downs National Park Authority's official dog-walking advice now reads: "Rivers and ponds are wildlife havens: help protect them by keeping your dog away from the water and on the path". Still a long way to go, unfortunately, with many dog owners still unaware of the risk presented by toxic pet flea treatment.
- 2 June 2026: [Inishowen marks World Peatlands Day](#): Hopefully, most gardeners have now got the message that peat isn't something to put in pots anymore; Inishowen Rivers Trust mark this World Peatlands Day, 2nd June, by pointing out how peatlands play a role in keeping rivers healthy downstream.

- 2 June 2026: [England's 'guerilla litterpickers' trying to save a river](#): Channel 4's Alex Thomson explores the efforts of Paul Powlesland and his team to rescue the Roding, London's third longest river, with bureaucrats proving at least as troublesome as litter and neglect.
- 2 June 2026: [FoE: Government commits to 87% cut in UK's climate emissions by 2040](#): Good news that the government has agreed to accept the recommendation of its advisers, the Climate Change Committee (CCC), and committed itself to a legally binding target to cut carbon emissions by 87 per cent (based on 1990 levels) by 2040.
- 2 June 2026: [Sir Quentin Blake celebrates the New River](#): A new mural by Sir Quentin Blake has been unveiled in north London ahead of the opening of a new illustration centre dedicated to his work. His new artwork, A Bridge to the Past, explores the history of the New River - the artificial waterway built between London and Hertfordshire in the 1600s - and its relationship with the surrounding community.
- 2 June 2026: [Water voles return to River Wey after 20 years](#): Water voles are being reintroduced to the River Wey in Farnham after a 20-year absence from the area. About 300 of the animals have been released into the river in the town centre as part of a wider project to help the species recover, after it became Britain's fastest declining mammal because of habitat loss and predation, the National Trust said.
- 2 June 2026: [Congratulations Jeremy Biggs!](#): Jeremy Biggs of Freshwater Habitats Trust (and formerly Pond Conservation) has been helping to reframe the debate around freshwater conservation for the last four decades, constantly reminding that ponds and small waterbodies really count for biodiversity. He's recently been recognized as an "Unsung Hero" in the ENDS Power List.
- 2 June 2026: [More than 20,000 fish killed in Ireland after River Glyde polluted](#): Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) said the "harmful ecological event", covering a 15 mile (25km) stretch of the River Glyde in County Louth, was first discovered on Tuesday evening. Species of fish discovered dead include Atlantic salmon, eel, brown trout, pike, minnow, and coarse fish species.
- 2 June 2026: [Big Paddle Cleanup: Paddle UK staff clean Nottingham Canal](#): Paddle UK staff have tackled plastic pollution and junk in the much-loved Nottingham Canal, as part of the Big Paddle Cleanup. The cleanup event, which took place between Binks Yard and along the

Nottingham and Beeston Canal, saw about 20 dedicated volunteers take to the water by kayaks, paddleboard, and canoe. In total, the team spent three hours on the water, removing 20 sacks of rubbish, along with surprises like a grit bin, slabs of polystyrene, a fire extinguisher and road signs.

- 2 June 2026: [Mushrooms against sewage!](#): Mushrooms could be used to filter out harmful waste and sewage in rivers, after a trial showed a certain fungi can destroy a type of bacteria that is a risk to human health.
- 2 June 2026: [Natural Flood Management with Ribble Rivers Trust](#): The Ribble Rivers Trust has been working closely with landowners to help slow the flow of water off Darwen Moors, aiming to reduce flood risk in the Darwen area. Here's a closer look at the Community Catchments initiative and how it works.
- 2 June 2026: [Why is Fair Isle plagued with forever chemicals?](#): It has the highest levels of toxic Pfas in drinking water in Scotland. But how did this remote island become awash with forever chemicals? Daniel Shailer investigates for The Guardian.
- 1 June 2026: [Ash Smith's petition: an update](#): WASP water campaigner Ash Smith's petition to "Hold a referendum to bring the water industry into public ownership" has garnered 128,015 signatures (and rising), which means it has to be "considered for a debate in Parliament". But the government has already issued a dismissive response, which you can read here: "Nationalisation would take years and involve complex legal processes, diverting effort from cleaning up rivers, lakes and seas. We are taking action now through stronger regulation and enforcement".
- 1 June 2026: [Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust Open Day 2026 at the Rivers4Life Exhibition](#): Join the Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust Open Day on Saturday 27 June, taking place within their Rivers4Life exhibition at the Dales Countryside Museum, Hawes, from 1pm. This unique event offers visitors the chance to explore a family-friendly exhibition celebrating the rivers, wildlife and catchments of the Yorkshire Dales, while also taking part in guided walks, live demonstrations and expert talks showcasing our conservation work across the region. Funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Rivers4Life runs daily from 6 June to 27 September 2026, open 10am-4pm, seven days a week.
- 1 June 2026: [Finding "Flow" at Dorset's Bere Marsh Farm](#): The art exhibition, which includes a large oil painting and a drawing of the

narrative flow of the imagery for the River Stour, as well as 12 framed monoprints and an animated drawing, will be open every day, except Sunday May 31st, during Dorset Arts Weeks, from 10 am to 5pm, until the exhibition closes on Saturday 6th June. It will then remain at the farm until the Saturday July 4th, available to view on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays as part of Evolver magazine's "Festival of Wessex", devoted to promoting 150 art events happening throughout the region, between mid-June and the end of September.

May 2026

- 30 May 2026: [What does a "Catchment Coordinator" do?](#): Eloise Phillips, newly appointed Catchment Coordinator for Western Sussex Rivers Trust, explains her community outreach work.
- 30 May 2026: [The Big River Watch results are in](#): Last month, between the 24th and 30th of April 2026, thousands of people across the UK and Ireland stepped outside, spent time by a river, and got involved in the latest Rivers Trust Big River Watch. Now the results are here!
- 30 May 2026: [There Will Be Fish: A Short Film by Charley Yates](#): The Wild Trout Trust have a new YouTube film for you to watch: "We recently braved the Yorkshire drizzle for a very special project. Jonathan Grey (our Research and Conservation Officer) dived into the world of river conservation with Charley Yates, a Film Production student at the University of Staffordshire. The result was this brilliant short documentary about electrofishing, Christmas trees, and all things wild trout!"
- 17 May 2026: [What is Himalayan Balsam, why's it a problem, and how do we deal with it?](#): The River Beane Restoration Association explain their efforts to bring the pesky alien invader to heel.
- 1 May 2026: [How ONE misconnected house polluted the Quaggy](#): An exasperated recent blog post from QWAG (Quaggy Waterways Action Group) explains why it took four years to stop a single misconnected property from polluting the South London river.

Forthcoming events in June 2026

- Monday 1 June 2026: [Wild Salmon Day](#): Join a global moment to celebrate wild salmon, raise awareness of the threats they face, and highlight the work that is making a difference.

- Saturday 6 to Sunday 7 June 2026: [Leicester Riverside Festival](#): A month-long celebration of British angling. Perfect for lapsed anglers and those keen to start, with friendly events all over the UK.
- Saturday 6 to Sunday 7 June 2026: [River Festival Coventry](#): Celebrate Coventry's hidden river at this year's River Festival, taking place at FarGo Village on Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th June, from 11am to 4pm each day, and organized by Warwickshire Wildlife Trust.
- Saturday 6 to Friday 12 June 2026: [World Ocean Day \(Week\) 2026](#): The MCS has a week of beach cleans and other events to mark World Oceans Day.
- Thursday 11 June 2026: [FBA Annual Scientific Meeting 2026: Emerging approaches for freshwater science](#): "Building on the success of last year's Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM), we are delighted to announce that the 2026 ASM, in partnership with Edinburgh Napier University, will be shining a light on 'Emerging approaches for freshwater science'".
- Friday 12 June to Sunday 5 July 2026: [Malmesbury River Festival](#): A brand new river festival in Wiltshire!

Jobs and other opportunities

The closing dates for jobs are in brackets.

Jobs

- [Senior Farm Advisor: Lune Rivers Trust](#) (28 June 2026)
- [Project Officer – Woodlands: Lune Rivers Trust](#) (28 June 2026)
- [Aquatic Species Officer: Lune Rivers Trust](#) (28 June 2026)
- [Head of Programmes: Bristol Avon Rivers Trust \(BART\)](#) (19 June 2026)
- [Principal Research Officer, Wetland Science: WWT](#) (24 June 2026)
- [Project Officer \(Commons\): West Cumbria Rivers Trust](#) (24 June 2026)
- [Project Officer River Restoration \(East\): Yorkshire Wildlife Trust](#) (21 June 2026)
- [Environmental Scientist: Canal and River Trust](#) (20 June 2026)
- [Head of Operations: Bristol Avon Rivers Trust \(BART\)](#) (19 June 2026)
- [Catchment Restoration Officer: Bristol Avon Rivers Trust \(BART\)](#) (19 June 2026)
- [Conservation Officer and Manager \(2 vacancies\): Upper Caldw: Eden Rivers Trust](#) (18 June 2026)
- [Senior Agricultural Officer \(Water and Wildlife Friendly Farming\): River Thame Conservation Trust](#) (18 June 2026)

- [Senior Farm Advisor: Tees Rivers Trust](#) (14 June 2026)
- [Senior Project Officer: Freshwater Habitats Trust](#) (12 June 2026)
- [Administration and Communications Officer: Ouse and Adur Rivers Trust](#) (12 June 2026)
- [Trust Administrator: Wessex Rivers Trust](#) (10 June 2026)
- [Beaver Project Officer: Cornwall Wildlife Trust](#) (10 June 2026)
- [Communications Officer : Wessex Rivers Trust](#) (10 June 2026)
- [Administration Assistant: West Wales Rivers Trust](#) (8 June 2026)
- [River Restoration Officer : West Wales Rivers Trust](#) (8 June 2026)
- [Project Officer: Ribble Rivers Trust](#) (8 June 2026)
- [Engagement Officer: Thames21](#) (8 June 2026)
- [Catchment Conservation Worker: Ribble Rivers Trust](#) (8 June 2026)
- [Water Team Project Officer \(Maternity Cover\): Wiltshire Wildlife Trust](#) (8 June 2026)

Trustees and other voluntary posts

- [Trustee: National Flood Forum](#) (14 June)
- [Trustee: Herefordshire Wildlife Trust](#) (8 June)
- [Trustee \(accounting skills\): Aire Rivers Trust](#) (N/A)
- [Learning and Engagement Volunteer: West Cumbria Rivers Trust](#) (N/A)

Other opportunities

The Rivers Trust has a useful page of [current vacancies](#) with the various trusts, including voluntary posts and openings for trustees.

==> Help us grow – please forward to your friends! <==

**Our weekly newsletter is available by email, RSS feed, or download from our website.
Find out more at <https://www.ukrivers.net/subscribe.html>**

Please send your news, events, press releases, campaign alerts, job posts, and anything else you'd like us to circulate to hello@ukrivers.net. UK Rivers Network newsletters are published under a [Creative Commons \(CC-BY-SA 4.0\) Licence](#), which means they're free to copy, distribute, and remix as you see fit, with credit.